

**Listing of claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original) A method for providing warranties that warrant one or more facts associated with a digitally-signed electronic message, comprising:  
assigning a warranty cap to an entity that issues digital certificates;  
tracking a warranty volume for the entity;  
receiving a request for a warranty from a subscriber to whom the entity issued a digital certificate, the request for a warranty specifying a warranted amount and claim period;  
evaluating the request for a warranty to ensure that the warranted amount will not cause the entity's warranty volume to exceed the entity's warranty cap;  
transmitting a message that confirms issuance of the requested warranty, the message being digitally signed by a component maintained by the entity, the warranty comprising a contract between the entity and the subscriber, a relying party being a third-party beneficiary to the contract;  
receiving a validation request from the relying party, the validation request requesting validation of a digital certificate for the component that signed the message confirming issuance of the requested warranty;  
transmitting a validation response to the relying party.